REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The applicant would like to acknowledge, with thanks, the Office Action that was mailed on March 19, 2007. This amendment is responsive to the March 19, 2007 Office Action.

By this amendment, independent claims 71, 82 and 90 have been amended. The element that the AP is the authenticator for the wireless client is not new matter as it is disclosed on page 6, lines 14-27 of the original specification. The element that the AP receives the session key is not new matter as it is disclosed on page 9, lines 12-13 of the original specification. Claims 94-100 have been canceled

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Claims 71-100 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,042,988 to Juitt (*hereinafter* Juitt). For reasons that will now be set forth, the claims as currently standing in this application are not anticipated by Juitt.

Independent claims 71 and 82 as currently amended, recite a system comprising an authentication server disposed on a network. A first authenticator (e.g. switch) is coupled to the network and communicatively coupled to the authentication server. A second authenticator (e.g. an access point) authenticates with the authentication server through the first authenticator. This establishes a secure communication channel between the first and second authenticators. When a supplicant (e.g. a wireless client) attempts to associate with the second authenticator, the second authenticator authenticates the supplicant with the authentication server through the secure communication channel established with the first authenticator. Because there is a secure communications channel established between the first and second authenticators, the second authenticator allows the first authenticator to authenticate the supplicant with the authentication server. To summarize, the first authenticator is an authenticator for the second authenticator, and the second authenticator is the authenticator for a supplicant. Claim 90 recites a methodology used by a second authenticator (e.g. an access point) such as may be used in the example embodiments recited in claims 71 and 82.

By contrast, Juitt uses a gateway server (functionally the equivalent of the switch) to authenticate mobile users, not the access points (see Abstract "Use of such a gateway server

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allows substantial control to be gained over network access even with the use of relatively simple access points", col. 8 line 66 – col. 9 line 2; col. 10, lines 53-56; col. 11, lines 19-21; col. 14 lines 12-14). The gateway server may establish an encrypted and authenticated session with access points (col. 8, lines 39-42). However, unlike what is recited in claims 71, 82 and 90, the gateway server (switch) is the authenticator for wireless clients, not the access points. Thus, Juitt does not disclose each and every elemeent of claims 71, 82 and 90.

In addition to the reasons just set forth for claim 71, claim 101 recites that data representative of the session key for the wireless client is delivered to the AP responsive to a successful authentication. Juitt does not disclose this element. In Juitt, the gateway server functions as the authenticator and thus the session key would be delivered form the authentication server to the gateway server, not the AP.
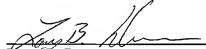
Claims 72-80, 83-89, and 91-93 directly depend from claims 71, 82 and, 90 respectively and therefore contain each and every element of claims 71, 82 and 90 respectively. Therefore, for the reasons already set forth for claims 71, 82 and 90, claims 72-80, 83-89 and 91-93 are not anticipated by Juitt.

CONCLUSION

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 72255/08267.

Respectfully submitted,

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